44:Matthews and Akrawi S,G-3 (1945-1946)1949 MI Middle East
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1874 formed part of the plan for complementary education, which was of two kinds: general complementary, restricted to general cultural courses, and vocational complementary, combining cultural and trade education. A certificate known as the general *brevet* was given at the end of the general course after the student had passed a public examination, and "vocational *brevets*,"—Technical, Commercial, or Agricultural—were given at the end of the vocational courses after public examinations.

The attempt to make the vocational schools a part of the complementary education had resulted in a heavy overloading of the course of study, and the students were working and studying for forty-six periods a week in the technical schools besides which there were additional study periods that were compulsory for boarding students. After the abolition of the complementary system in the new educational organization the vocational schools were considered as independent schools, and an attempt was made to lighten their programs.

The number of students in the public vocational schools in 1943–44 was 1,024, and in the following year, 1,011. A summary description of the schools visited by the Commission will perhaps give the best picture of public vocational education in Syria.

THE TECHNICAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS

736 The Technical School for boys at Aleppo dated back to 1900 when it was founded in connection with an orphanage, with the idea of providing trade education for orphans. Its connection with the orphanage was severed in 1924–25.[1] It had 148 students in 1945–46, of whom 73 were boarders. Eleven of these paid annually a sum of £S240 (about $108.00) for their board, and the other 62 had free board at the expense of the state. The boarding students come from the outer districts of the governorate of Aleppo as well as from the governorates of Homs, Hama, Latakia, and Dayr al-Zur. Thus, about one-half of the student body is from outside Aleppo, and an attempt is being made to give opportunity for vocational education to students from the smaller towns. No tuition fee is charged.

The new program of study, issued in November 1945, covers four years and combines general cultural with vocational work. It includes religion, civics, Arabic, a foreign language, mathematics, physics, history, geography, physical education, industrial drawing, technology, and shopwork. In the first year, which is a preparatory year, the shopwork is common for all

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[1] This conception of technical education as primarily suited to orphans is of long standing and has persisted until lately in the Damascus technical schools for boys and for girls. In recent years steps have been taken to separate the orphanages from the technical schools in that city.